

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please combine and revise the five paragraphs under the heading "CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS" into three paragraphs as follows:

This application is (a) a continuation-in-part of pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/569,761, "Channel Gain Control for an Optical Communications System Utilizing Frequency Division Multiplexing," by Laurence J. Newell and James F. Coward, filed May 12, 2000; (b) This application is also a continuation-in-part of pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/816,242, "Through-timing of Data Transmitted across an Optical Communications System Utilizing Frequency Division Multiplexing," by David A. Pechner, et al., filed March 23, 2001; which is a continuation-in-part of pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/571,349, "Through-timing of Data Transmitted across an Optical Communications System Utilizing Frequency Division Multiplexing," by David A. Pechner and Laurence J. Newell, filed May 16, 2000; and (c) This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/273,833, "High-Speed Optical Signal in an Optical Frequency Division Multiplexing System," by Michael W. Rowan, et al., filed March 6, 2001; U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/251,893, "Non Service Interrupting Hot-Swap of Expansion Cards in an Optical Frequency Division Multiplexing System", by Laurence J. Newell and David A. Pechner, filed Dec. 6, 2000; U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/211,849, "Control Channel for Optical Communication Networks Utilizing Frequency Division Multiplexing", by David A. Pechner, et al., filed June 15, 2000; and U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/209,020, "Optical Communications Networks Utilizing Frequency Division Multiplexing," by Michael W. Rowan, et al., filed June 1, 2000.

Am. Cont. This application is related to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. ~~xxxxxxxx~~09/854,246,

“Synchronizing Nodes in an Optical Communications System Utilizing Frequency Division Multiplexing,” by Laurence J. Newell, filed on even date herewith; and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. ~~xxxxxx~~09/854,153, “Channel Gain Control for an Optical Communications System Utilizing Frequency Division Multiplexing,” by Laurence J. Newell and James F. Coward, filed on even date herewith.

The subject matter of all of the foregoing is incorporated herein by reference.

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